

The Brookline Police



Blue View

350 Washington St. Brookline, MA 02445



Welcome to Brookline!

An important part of our mission in Brookline is to work with our community to prevent crimes and problems before they negatively impact a person's quality of life.

With this in mind, we strive to provide the most efficient, effective and highest quality police services possible.

We have forged solid relationships with our residents, neighboring Colleges, Universities, and Police Departments that allows for the easy exchange of information. This exchange is very beneficial in controlling crime, limiting noise disturbances, and controlling public disorder as well as drug and alcohol violations.

We, as a police organization, have accomplished a lot over the years. We will continue to work closely with schools, management companies, and the community to ensure a safe and peaceful atmosphere for all. Please visit our web site: www.brooklinepolice.com

I wish you the best of luck for your upcoming year!

Chief Daniel C. O'Leary

Living in Brookline

Brookline is a town in Norfolk County, Massachusetts, which borders the cities of Boston and Newton. The population is approximately 60,000 residents in a 6.8 mile radius. Brookline is fortunate to have a diverse culture of permanent residents as well as an abundance of temporary residents, a large number of which are students.

Brookline is host to many colleges and universities such as, Newbury College, Pine Manor, New England Institute of Art, parts of Boston University, and parts of Boston College.

While having these higher learning institutions located in our town is certainly a plus, there are issues that require the schools, community, and the Brookline Police to focus their attention on. The following issues: loud parties, noise complaints, public intoxication and underage drinking can have a dramatic effect on the quality of life for residents in our Town.

Years back the Brookline Police Department realized there was a significant need to address the above issues. This was accomplished by forming a collaborative partnership with the individual schools, property managers and the Police Department. Open lines of communication have allowed us to identify issues faster, involve the proper agencies, and seek expedited solutions.

This guide was created as an extension of our open lines of communication. We feel that it is important to be informed about Town By-Laws, state statutes, and ordinances that have an impact on your daily life.

Blue Note: Call 911 for Police, Fire, or Medical Emergencies
Non-emergency 617-730-2222

In This Issue

- Welcome to Brookline
- Town By-Laws
- Brookline Fire Safety Tips
- Personal Safety Tips
- Women's Self Defense

Spring 2010

Brookline Noise By-Law Loud Parties

These By-Laws include but are not limited to the following articles and may be viewed at www.brooklinema.gov :

- Article 8.15 / Noise Control
- Article 8.5 / Disorderly Behavior
- Article 8.5.2. / Disorderly Action
- Article 8.5.3 / Language
- Article 8.5.4 / Present to Disturb

Disturbances of public order are found in the Massachusetts General Laws under G.L. c. 272 S 53. This chapter includes, but is not limited to:

- Disorderly Conduct
- Disturbing the Peace
- Group Disorder
- Keepers of a Noisy House

The Town of Brookline will adhere to a “Zero Tolerance” philosophy to violations of these and other laws.

What can happen if Brookline Police arrive at your door because of a noise disturbance?

- Residents identified
- Advised of complaint
- Party shut down
- Schools notified
- Building management notified
- Written By-Law notice
- Written Warning notice
- Court Action (summons / arrest)
- Arrest / Protective Custody

Blue Note: Pending state approval, Brookline Officers will have the ability to fine individuals who are in violation of the newly proposed Nuisance By-Law. This violation carries a \$100 fine.

Who Else is Involved?

The building managers and schools also take several steps in such situations:

- Parent notification
- Fines from both school and management
- Academic Probation
- Expulsion from school
- Eviction

Are we in Violation?

The Brookline Police have worked extensively with the property managers and schools to develop a system to curb disruptive behavior. The following are some “red flags” that will draw the attention of the Brookline Police:

- Parties with large numbers of guests.
- 2 or more calls to the same location for noise disturbances.
- Underage drinking
- Noisy guests arriving/leaving
- Loud talking from balconies
- Loud stereo's / heavy bass

Blue Note: The Brookline Police understand and expect residents of its town to have social gatherings. Our goal is to ensure that no one suffers “bad times” as a result of your “good times”.

Zoning By-Law for Housing

Article II Definitions

§2.06 –“F” Definitions

1. FAMILY – One or more persons, including domestic employees, occupying a dwelling unit and living as a single, non-profit housekeeping unit; provided, that a group of five or more persons who are not within the second degree of Kinship, as defined by civil law, shall not be deemed to constitute a family. **Put in simple terms, No more than 4 unrelated persons can live in one location.**

This By-Law was put in place to prevent overcrowding of units and for the protection of the residents in the building.

A violation of this By-Law will result in fines and possible eviction of all parties.



Parking in Brookline

The Town of Brookline has strict parking regulations.

Daytime Parking: Unless posted otherwise, no driver may park a vehicle on the same street in Brookline between the hours of 6:00 AM of one day and 1:00 AM of the following day (Sundays and public holidays excepted) for a period of time longer than two (2) hours.

Overnight Parking: No driver may park on any street in Brookline, or in any Town-owned off-street parking facility, for a period longer than one (1) hour between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM on any day of the week unless allowed by the Transportation Board.

Snow Emergency: No car may be parked on any street in the Town of Brookline once a snow emergency has been declared. To learn if Brookline has called a snow emergency, listen to the local broadcast media outlets or call the DPW at (617) 730 2610.

Unpaid Parking Tickets

- After 21 days unpaid tickets are assessed a \$15 late fee.
- After 21 additional days the Town assesses an additional \$5 and the RMV adds a \$20 surcharge.
- Keep in mind 1 unpaid \$30 ticket could end up costing \$70.
- If your vehicle is registered in MA and you have outstanding parking tickets, your vehicle will be towed and held until the tickets are paid.
- If your vehicle is registered out of state and you have outstanding parking tickets, your vehicle will be towed and held until the tickets are paid.

Blue Note: 2 hour ticket = \$30.00
Overnight ticket = \$30.00
Check for signage!

Pay parking tickets online at
www.brooklinepolice.com
In person: 350 Washington St.
Brookline, MA 02445

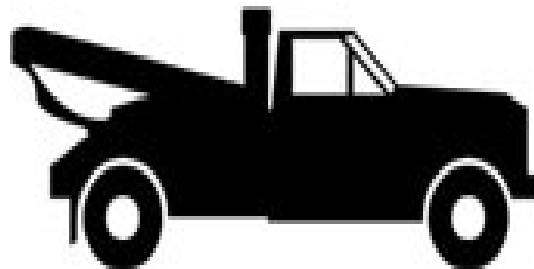


Police Towing

The Brookline Police Department is currently contracted with Perfection Towing, which is located at:

PERFECTION TOWING
483 Pleasant St.
Watertown, MA
(617) 923-9016

Blue Note: If your vehicle is towed by the Brookline Police for whatever reason, you first have to go to the Police Station to sign a release. The tow yard will not give you your vehicle without the release slip.





Brookline Fire Department



On behalf of the firefighters of the Brookline Fire Department I welcome you to Brookline.

It is to the mission of the Brookline Fire Department to protect life and property and providing effective fire suppression, emergency medical services, specialized rescue and hazardous materials. Our goal is not only responding to emergencies but to educate our residents on Fire Awareness and Prevention. Our Fire Prevention Division is located at 350 Washington St., Brookline, MA

Best Wishes,
Chief Peter Skerry

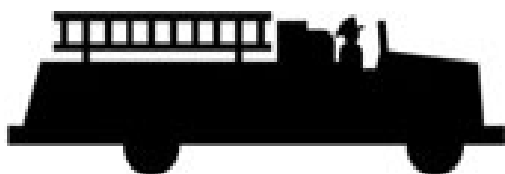
Brookline Fire Stations

Station #1

140 Washington Street
Village Square, Brookline Village

Station #4

827 Boylston Street
Route 9, Heath School area



Station #5

49 Babcock St.
Coolidge Corner, Devotion School Area

Station #6

Location
962 Hammond Street
Abutting Town Golf Course at Horace James Circle

Station #7

Location
665 Washington Street
Washington Square

Smoke Detectors



The State Fire
Marshal's Office
recommends
testing your

SMOKE and CO detectors monthly and replacing the batteries twice a year.

Don't just assume the batteries in your smoke detectors are fresh. That beep sound you hear every so often may mean your batteries are low!

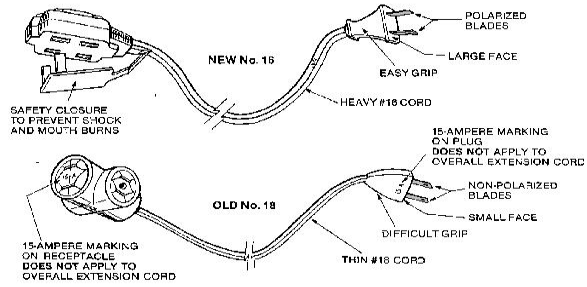
Out Door Grills

Everyone enjoys a good barbeque, however the Brookline Fire Department **DOES NOT ALLOW** the use of grills, hibachis or similar appliances on porches, balconies or roof tops. This is in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 148, Section 28. Also note that the storage or use of liquefied petroleum gas (Propane) containers above the first floor of a building used for habitation is prohibited by 527 Commonwealth Massachusetts Fire Prevention Regulations, Section 6.07 (5) (a).

Buildings have burned to the ground because of a seemingly simple barbeque. These are extremely dangerous practices and the prohibition will be enforced.



Extension Cords



DID YOU KNOW the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSO) estimates that each year, about 4,000 injuries associated with electric extension cords and about 3,300 residential fires originate in extension cords each year?

Safety Tips:

1. **Use** extension cords only when necessary and only on a temporary basis.
2. **Never** cover any part of an extension cord with newspapers, clothing, rugs, or any objects while the cord is in use.
3. **Never** place an extension cord where it is likely to be damaged by heavy furniture or foot traffic.
4. **Don't** use staples or nails to attach extension cords to a baseboard or to another surface.
5. **Don't** overload extension cords.
6. **Use** special, heavy duty cords for high wattage appliances such as air conditioners, portable electric heaters, fridge and freezers.
7. **Replace** cracked or worn extension cords

Warm to touch means you are overloading them! Unplug and upgrade!

Candles



155 Candle
Fires in MA
caused \$6.3
million in
damages in
2008

98% of the
candles used in
Massachusetts'

candle fires were not needed as sources of light but were used for other purposes such as decoration, pleasure or mood.

Over one-third of residential structure candle fires begin in a bedroom. Over half of all residential structure candle fires were started because the candle was placed too close to combustible materials. (Chairs, blankets, curtains etc.)

If you use candles, be smart. Don't place candles near anything that could catch fire and never leave lit candles unattended!

Porches

Porches or balconies are a popular feature in apartments. If they become worn out, overcrowded, or are insecurely built, however, porches can pose a serious safety risk to residents and visitors.

Porch Dangers

Porches and balconies of multi-story apartments have recently been the focus of porch dangers. The deadliest porch collapse in history occurred in a multi-story apartment. A large group of people were



gathered outside on the balcony at a house party, the 3rd floor porch suddenly gave way, taking out the 2nd and 1st floor porches as it fell, killing 13 people and injuring 57.

This accident illustrates the hazardous potential of porches in high rise apartments.

Use common sense. Don't let too many people on your porch or balcony at one time. Take into consideration furniture, as it can add a lot of weight. Never place a Keg on an elevated porch or balcony. Failure to extinguish cigarettes properly can cause fires.

Personal Safety Tips

The Town of Brookline enjoys a relatively low crime rate while being surrounded by a major city on 3 sides. Although our rates are low, crime can still happen. The following are some general strategies to help keep you safe:

Develop a Safe Home Game Plan

- When not home, put lights/radio on timers to create illusion someone is home.
- Use first initial and last name only on mailbox and phone.
- Never admit you are home alone
- Avoid being in garages or laundry rooms alone at night
- If you return home and find a door or window open, don't go in. Call the Police and have them check it out.

Blue Note: Be aware of yourself and surroundings.

Watch your Wheels



Lock your vehicle.

Keep items of value in the trunk. Items left in plain sight such as GPS, IPOD, and computers are easy targets.

When a vehicle goes to the garage or parking attendant, leave only the ignition key.

Blue Note: Always have your keys in your hand when walking to your car.

Be Alert

- Always check your backseat before entering your vehicle.
- Park in well lighted areas
- If you are being followed don't go home, go to nearest Police Department or safe place with people around.
- Keep doors locked, windows up while driving or parking.
- Do Not Hitchhike

ATM's

- Always be alert when withdrawing money from ATM.
- Never open the door for a stranger while inside ATM.
- Make sure you remove your ATM card, receipt, and all cash.
- Don't count your money while walking out of ATM or down the street.



Take Charge of your Credit Cards

- Be smart – watch what they do with your card. Make sure you get it back.
- If you use card over the phone make sure it is a legit company.
- Destroy out of date credit cards
- Lost or stolen cards must be cancelled immediately.

Debit Cards

If you can select your own Personal Identification Number (PIN) to access an automated teller machine, stay away from your birth date, social security number or address. If you lost your wallet with your card in it, these are the first ones a criminal would try. Do not write your PIN on the card or on a piece of paper in your wallet/purse.

Blue Note: Never give out the 3 digit code on the back of debit cards / credit cards unless you are sure who is getting it. Scammers are smooth and may have all your information except for that 3 digit code.



ID Theft

If you are a victim of identity theft, take the following four steps as soon as possible, and keep a record with the details of your conversations and copies of all correspondence.



1. Place a fraud alert on at least one of the following 3 credit rating companies.

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289;
www.transunion.com

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285;
www.equifax.com

Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742);
www.experian.com

2. Close the accounts that you know, or believe, have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

3. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. www.ftc.gov

4. File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

Street Sense

- Always be aware of your surroundings. Use the “buddy” system whenever possible.
- Have a plan of action in mind. Make note of possible escape routes.
- Take extra precautions after dark. Stick to well-lit, busy streets.
- Avoid being distracted by talking on a cell phone or looking in a purse etc. while walking alone.
- Walk with an air of confidence. Alert, Cautious, and Confident.
- Criminals look for easiest targets.
- Remember that cell phones, wallets, purses, etc, can all be replaced and are not worth getting hurt over.
- Calling 911 from a cell phone connects you to the State Police, so you will need to tell them the town you are in and they will transfer the call. (it happens quick)
- Program the Brookline Police number (617) 730-2222 into your phone for use in emergencies
- Trust your gut feelings. If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't!

Blue Note: Never be afraid to call the Police, that's why we are here!

Women's Self Defense



Rape Aggression
Defense (R.A.D.)
Training

The Rape Aggression Defense System is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. The R.A.D. System is a comprehensive, women-only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. R.A.D. is not a Martial Arts program. Our courses are taught by Brookline Police Officers who are nationally certified R.A.D. Instructors.

The Rape Aggression Defense System is dedicated to teaching women defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault, by utilizing easy, effective and proven self-defense tactics.

The Brookline Police Department offers this program free of charge. For more information contact (617) 730 – 2414, Leave a message with your name and phone number and someone will contact you when a class gets scheduled. (Classes are taught over 3 nights at 6pm until 8pm.)

Public Works

The Public Works Department is responsible for all endeavors relating to planning, designing, operating, maintaining, and managing public ways, park lands, open space, public grounds, water/sewer collection systems, and the collection and disposal of solid waste.

www.brooklinema.gov

Trash Pick -Up

Refuse will be picked up once per week on a regularly scheduled collection day except when collection is interrupted by a [legal holiday](#). When this occurs, all residents shall place refuse out for collection one (1) day later than their usual collection day for the entire week.

Recycling

Blue recycling bins are available free of charge for residents who subscribe to Town Disposal Service. Bins are available for pick-up from the Department of Public Works. In order to receive a bin, you must show proof of residency at a Brookline household that is on Town Disposal Service.



For more information, please call the Department of Public Works at 617-730-2156.

What can not go out with my trash?

1. No hazardous waste.
2. No renovation or construction debris.
Have contractor haul away or contact permitted private waste hauler.
3. No paint except for cans of latex that are dried out with covers off.
4. No Propane tanks.
5. No Tires.

Large Appliance Pick-up

The following is a partial list of appliance items that require a call one week in advance of pick-up. Please call 617-730-2156 to schedule a pick-up:

- Clothes Washers & Dryers
- Dehumidifiers
- Dishwashers
- Freezers & Refrigerators (Must remove doors, non-commercial)
- Gas & Electric Stoves
- Gas Lawnmowers & Snow blowers
Must remove gas)
- Metal Filing Cabinets & Desks
- Printers (More than 40 lbs)
- Radiators
- Small Copiers
- Trash Compactors
- Water Coolers & Heaters
- Window Air Conditioners